

I would like to thank each of them individually for their contributions to our team and to our State.

My chief of staff, Sheila Grant, has guided and counseled me all the 6 years of my time here. Her honesty and candor have consistently steered me in the right direction, and I have appreciated greatly her sense of humor.

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My State director, Molly Magarik, has not only an incredible ability to understand complex problems but, more importantly, she comes up with solutions to fix them. She is a huge asset to me and to the people of Delaware.

My deputy State director, Albert Shields, has stood by me since the beginning, going back to my days as Lieutenant Governor. His knowledge of Delaware and his work ethic are unmatched.

I am grateful for the work of our team in Delaware. Kristy Huxhold has kept the trains running on time and the office humming for both former Congressman Mike Castle and for me. Nicole Pender keeps our office plugged in to local issues and shepherds local nonprofits and governments through the maze of Federal grant applications. Joe Bryant helps our constituents navigate the challenging landscape of Federal benefits, all while serving as a member of the Delaware National Guard. Sarah Venables is the queen of constituent service, who is loved by all, and is a tenacious and effective champion for our veterans. Annie Gallagher, a long-time friend who formerly worked for Senator Roth, we had to bring her out of retirement twice to help us with Medicare and Social Security, which she gets better than anyone I know. Drew Slater has done a tremendous job as my eyes and ears in Kent and Sussex Counties and may love the State Fair even more than I do. Larry Morris, my long-time friend whose dedication to the city of Wilmington and its youth is unmatched. And Read Scott, who helps me stay in touch with my constituents and directs people through the confusing worlds of the IRS and health care.

Each one of these individuals has put in countless hours on behalf of Delaware. I have been lucky to have them on my team.

In my Washington office, Elizabeth Connolly has worked for me since before she even graduated from Smith College. I am extremely grateful for her loyalty and her dedication to our work on financial services and other issues. Francesca Amodeo overcame her roots as a non-Delawarean—and that is hard to do in my office—to become one of our State's biggest cheerleaders and to help me become an effective communicator. Connor Hamburg, a true Blue Hen, has an unbridled passion for southern Delaware and agricultural policy that can't help but make you smile. Gita Miller and Betsey Coulbourn have helped me share my

view with Delawareans and respond to one of the largest constituencies in the whole House of Representatives. Lastly, our staff assistant, Elena Kochnowicz, and her recent predecessor, Brannock Furey, have done everything under the sun. From Capitol tours to greeting visitors with a smiling face, both Elena and Brannock have been crucial to our operation.

In addition to our current staff, I would also like to thank the many dedicated folks who have worked for me in previous years. Doug Gramiak first served as chief of staff during my time as Lieutenant Governor and later as my State director. He has been a valued friend and confidant ever since. Doug got our office up and running 6 years ago and played a critical role during my first years in Congress.

I would also like to recognize my first chief of staff here in Washington, Elizabeth Hart. Elizabeth worked for me for 5 years and built a solid foundation from the start. She showed me the ropes here in D.C., and her knowledge and experience was invaluable to me and to our office.

Lastly, I would like to thank all our former staff in Delaware and here in the District: Cerron Cade, Bob Stickels, Gail Seitz, Sam Hodas, Justin German, Craig Radcliffe, Natasha Babiarz, Mary Williams, Katie Paisley, James Allen, Jenny Kane, Matt Pincus, and Steve Carfagno. I will always remember our time together and will never forget their hard work on behalf of the people of Delaware and myself.

Mr. Speaker, it has been an honor to have served alongside this team, from making sure constituents receive the Federal benefits they deserve, to crafting legislative policy that addresses the needs of our State. Each of these individuals has worked tirelessly on behalf of Delawareans, and I want to publicly thank them today for their dedication to the people of our great State.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

CELEBRATING INDIANA'S BICENTENNIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROKITA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to stand before the Chamber today and talk about one of my favorite subjects and one of the favorite subjects of all the speakers who are going to appear before this floor in the next hour. And that is the State of Indiana and, in particular, the fact that, as a very proud State which has offered so much to this Nation, we are celebrating our 200th anniversary since admission to the Union.

It has been the highest honor of my life to serve Indiana in public office, and, I know for all the speakers today, it has been the same for them.

We have a lot to talk about in very few minutes, if you consider it. So I would like to get right to introducing some of my colleagues who are here to celebrate the bicentennial of the State of Indiana. The first being one of my good friends, Mr. TODD YOUNG from Indiana's Ninth Congressional District. He has represented that district since 2010. He is an amazing young leader. And last month, he was made our Senator-elect to serve in the next Chamber, and we look forward to working with him.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. I thank the gentleman for yielding. It has been a privilege serving with him in the House on behalf of the people of Indiana. I look forward to our continued work together. I am just so grateful for our delegation and the leadership it exhibited on behalf of the State.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Indiana's bicentennial celebration. Much of our State's great history emanated from a little town in Indiana's Ninth Congressional District, which I have had the honor and privilege of representing for the last 6 years. The town is Corydon. It is located in Harrison County, which is on the banks of the Ohio River.

In 1816, James Madison, our then-President, signed an enabling act to explore the possibility of statehood for Indiana. Soon after, in June of 1816, 43 delegates congregated across the territory. They came to descend on Corydon, and their purpose was to draft our State's first constitution. Much of the delegates' work was done under the shade of a large elm tree, known by all of those in our delegation, and known by so many Hoosiers and even people outside of the State today, as the Constitution Elm. That tree still stands, and Indiana is still going strong.

Our Constitution set the table for the State's first election in August of that year, where Jonathan Jennings was elected our Governor. In November, Governor Jennings and Indiana's newly elected representatives met in the new capitol building, which is a beautiful building. And the intention there was to commence the State's first general assembly session. Their work resulted in Indiana formally being admitted as the country's 19th State in December of 1816. Corydon would serve as the State's capital until 1825, when the State's government was then moved to Indianapolis, where it remains today, centrally in the State.

Now, Corydon also served as the site of Indiana's only battle during the Civil War. The attack was a part of Morgan's Raid, as confederate troops descended across the Ohio River under the leadership of confederate General John Hunt Morgan. He moved across parts of Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, and

Tennessee in 1863. It was a small militia of Hoosiers who met Morgan's confederates, and that skirmish is still celebrated today.

So Corydon's importance to our State's history can't be highlighted enough, but it is one area on the map, one very important area on the map of the State of Indiana. There are so many other important towns, cities, and Hoosiers that I know will be highlighted and accentuated in the course of this celebration here on the floor of the U.S. House.

I commend my colleague, TODD ROKITA, for shining a bright light on our celebration of 200 years. I look forward to continuing to celebrate Indiana's bicentennial with Hoosiers, celebrating the rich history which our State has followed, and celebrating all the good years we know will come.

Mr. ROKITA. I thank the gentleman for his service. I look forward to working with him in the future. I thank him for honoring our great State and for his service to our country.

Indiana has had a long and proud history, acting as a leader in many crucial fields and enriching the history of our Nation overall. Hoosiers have helped give us everything from airplanes to penicillin and insulin and even walked the first steps on the Moon. Both Wilbur Wright and Eli Lilly hailed from Indiana and permanently altered the course of human history for the better.

Neil Armstrong attended Purdue University, which I am proud to say is in Indiana's Fourth Congressional District. Purdue University is one of the top engineering schools in the country and has been a leader in fighting against rising tuition costs, one of the most important issues facing this Congress and the next and, actually, the next generation of students entirely.

Our State is lucky, however, in that Purdue is hardly the only outstanding higher education option available. I, myself, am a proud alumnus of two Indiana colleges and universities, Wabash College and the Indiana School of Law. We fight hard to be an education partner for all Hoosiers and all our institutions, and that includes the entire delegation, whether Republican or Democrat.

In that vein, Mr. Speaker, I will recognize another distinguished Hoosier and member of our delegation, Representative LARRY BUCSHON. He is a doctor by trade. He practiced, and practiced well, the profession his entire adult life, starting in the United States Navy, and now represents Indiana's Eighth Congressional District.

Indiana couldn't be prouder of Representative BUCSHON and what he brings not only to the Energy and Commerce Committee but to this very floor every day that we are in session. With that, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON).

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. ROKITA from the Fourth District for yielding and for putting together this Special Order on behalf of our State.

You know, Indiana boasts two of America's Presidents and now eight Vice Presidents. We are the home of Hoosier hysteria, a great basketball tradition, and the greatest spectacle in racing, the Indianapolis 500. We love our breaded pork tenderloins and our sugar cream pie.

We have the sixth largest National Guard in the Nation, made up of over 13,000 Hoosiers that has defended this country in wars, from the Battle of Tippecanoe to World War II to the global war on terror.

Most importantly, Indiana is home to the most humble, generous, compassionate, and hardworking citizens in our country. And our great State—all 6.5 million Hoosiers—is now celebrating 200 years.

I want to take a minute to briefly highlight a few of the things specific to the Eighth Congressional District in Indiana.

This year, my annual art competition for high school students focused on celebrating Indiana to commemorate the Hoosier State's bicentennial. We had a lot of creative submissions from talented students across southern Indiana and Wabash Valley. The winning art piece recognized the 100-year anniversary of Bosse Field in Evansville, a baseball field. Bosse Field is the third oldest ballpark in the country and is still in regular use for professional baseball. It was also featured in the popular film in 1991, "A League of Their Own." A lot of that was filmed at Bosse Field in Evansville, Indiana.

I am also proud to say that communities in Indiana's Eighth Congressional District were exceptionally involved in the Bicentennial Legacy Project. The Bicentennial Legacy Project showcases the best of Indiana to promote and support important community projects and programs across the State. It is really the best of the best for what the Hoosier State has to offer.

□ 1515

There are nearly 300 officially sanctioned bicentennial legacy projects undertaken in counties and communities in the Eighth Congressional District. The Eighth District is also home to premier places of historic, cultural, and natural significance.

Lyles Station in Gibson County is a small farming community that was an original settlement of freed slaves nearly 200 years ago. Lyles Station is highlighted nationally at the Smithsonian Institution's new National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Vincennes in Knox County was established in 1801 as Indiana's first city. It served as our territorial capital and was a key player in the American Revolution. It is also home to George Rogers Clark National Historic Park and President William Henry Harrison's Grouseland, his home when he was Governor of the Indiana Territory.

New Harmony in Posey County was first established as a communal uto-

pian society and later a center for knowledge and science.

Spencer County is the home of President Abraham Lincoln as a youth and a young man and is home to Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial.

We have a strong German Catholic heritage in southwest Indiana with Saint Meinrad Archabbey in Spencer County and Monastery Immaculate Conception in Dubois County.

Indiana's Eighth District is also home to Naval Support Activity Crane, the U.S. Navy's third largest installation in the entire world. Last week, the base celebrated its 75th anniversary.

In 1915, the Root Glass Company developed the very first Coca-Cola bottle in Terre Haute, Indiana. That is one for the trivia question book: Where was the first Coca-Cola bottle designed and made?

It was made in Terre Haute, Indiana. That bottle has now become an iconic, world-recognized brand.

Of course, we have Hoosier National Forest, which takes up a good portion of the southern area of my State, which is home to a lot of activities that Hoosiers enjoy with the great outdoors, along with Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge near Oakland City, Indiana, and it serves the same purpose.

Of course, we have the world-famous Santa Claus postmark. Santa Claus, Indiana, every year at Christmas has literally tens of thousands of boxes of Christmas cards sent to Santa Claus so they can have the unique postmark from Santa Claus, Indiana, that is usually designed by a local student in a competition. They pick that, and every year around Christmastime I get the pleasure to go over to Santa Claus to the post office and postmark some of those Christmas cards myself.

In manufacturing, everything from noodles to nuclear components are made in the Eighth District of Indiana. We are also a principal supplier of the world's agricultural products.

As you can see, Indiana's Eighth Congressional District has a rich history, and I am proud to represent this area. It is an honor and a privilege to serve with all of my Hoosier colleagues. Thank you again, Representative ROKITA, for putting this together.

Mr. ROKITA. I thank the gentleman. I quickly want to turn our attention and yield to the gentleman from Indianapolis, Mr. ANDRÉ CARSON. He represents Indiana's Seventh Congressional District. Like us all, he is a fierce advocate for the different communities in his district. Additionally, André and I both serve on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. I think that is an important position to have when the motto of your State is "Crossroads of America."

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend, Congressman ROKITA, who has done a great job at representing his constituents, and we appreciate him for assembling a great body of Hoosiers from all across the great State of Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate a milestone in Indiana's history, the bicentennial of our great State. For the past 200 years, Indiana has stood as a beacon of opportunity for millions of Hoosiers who came to the State to make a better life for themselves and their families.

Indiana's history stems from our earliest Native American inhabitants. In fact, the State's name literally means "land of the Indians." Early settlers befriended Native Americans as they came from New York in the Northeast, Kentucky in the South, and Ohio in the Midwest. They settled across a geography as varied as Indiana's people, stretching from rolling hills in southern Brown County to flat and sandy in the north along the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore.

These influences created a melting pot of influences that remain today. Over the past 200 years, Mr. Speaker, Indiana has been home to countless colorful and transformative figures like the Jackson 5, Larry Bird, John Cougar Mellencamp, Dan Quayle, Babyface, Mike Epps, and countless others.

But more than any individual, Mr. Speaker, when folks think of Indiana, they think of racing, they think of basketball. In fact, the great Hoosier State is credited with the origin of high school basketball. Our college teams are some of the most consistently successful in the country, and the enthusiasm surrounding the sport is unmatched.

In my hometown of Indianapolis, we are proud to have hosted the Indianapolis 500 for 100 eventful years. The Indianapolis Motor Speedway has long been the world's gold standard for race tracks, hosting some of the most historic races and prompting countless innovations.

But what makes Indiana so special is not what most people think of first, Mr. Speaker. It is not a historical figure or a notable accomplishment. What makes Indiana great is the type of people who live there. Hoosiers have truly built America. Students at our world class universities have spawned creative businesses and grown our economy across the country. Our workers have built millions of automobiles, created lifesaving medicines, and advanced sports to new levels. Our farmers feed America and the entire world.

We joke about how friendly and welcoming Hoosiers are. Living in Indiana, you don't always recognize it, but coming here to Washington, D.C., has made me realize how real Hoosier hospitality is, unlike a lot of D.C. I am talking about Capitol Hill. I am not talking about the rest of D.C.; they are great people. Staffers are great here, too. But Hoosiers care about people. We want to make them feel welcome, and we want to help them when we can.

The Hoosiers we see today who grew up in a State built by all of those before us are the reason that this bicentennial is so special. I can't imagine a better place to live, Mr. Speaker, and I

am proud to call Indiana home. I am proud that I grew up there and that my daughter will, too; and representing this wonderful State in Congress continues to be a tremendous honor.

Happy birthday, Indiana. May our next 200 years be as full of history, innovation, and achievement as our past 200.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CARSON for his words. You will recall he mentioned the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Here is a great picture of it, circa about, I would say, late 1980s, just part of our heritage that we will be sharing here over the next hour.

When I was last commenting about the great Hoosier State here at this podium, I talked about Hoosier schools. Hoosier places of higher learning have also become major players in the sports world, winning national championships and creating some fierce, yet fun, rivalries.

For example, in Indiana's Fourth Congressional District there is both DePauw University and Wabash College. They face off every year in the iconic Monon Bell game. It has been going on for over 100 years. As Wabash men, I don't think there is any question whom Representative MESSER and myself root for, but that is just another example of the great Hoosier spirit in the Monon Bell game.

Focusing on Purdue University again for just a second, I want to yield some time to a great Member of this body who is also retiring this year. Mr. KURT CLAWSON of Florida is no longer a resident, of course, of Indiana, but he was at one time, helping lead Purdue's basketball team to untold heights.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CLAWSON).

Mr. CLAWSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ROKITA for those kind words and for his friendship and support and his flexibility in this House. There are very few people like him, and I will miss him.

The first thing I have to say today is Boiler Up, Mr. Speaker, Boiler Up. I am from Florida. I proudly represent southwest Florida that I love so much, but I went to high school and college in Indiana; so part of me will always be from Indiana and I will always love the State and its wonderful people.

In 1976, my dad moved the family of 7 kids to southeastern Indiana from the South, and we went to a small town in southeastern Indiana called Batesville, kind of a typical town of 4,000 or 5,000 people, typical hotbed of basketball and shooters, with well-known sports names in the area, like Paul Ehrman, the co-chairman, going into the Indiana Baseball Hall of Fame next year, Ace Moorman, Dave Galle, among other basketball and sports greats in southern Indiana.

My parents immediately loved the Indiana culture that we were exposed to in Batesville, best summarized by words of my dad who would say something like this: Work hard; don't com-

plain; put the group, the team, and the family first; go to church on Sunday; actually kneel down and pray; and show a little humility.

Right, Dad?

Eventually, trying to do as best I could to follow my father's counsel, I went to Purdue to play for the College Hall of Fame coach, Coach Gene Keady, and I have to tell you how much of an honor that was and a memorable experience in my life. Before continuing on a little bit about Coach Keady, I want to compliment our current president at Purdue, the former Governor of Indiana, Mitch Daniels, who moves our university into the future with a new business model of innovation and leadership. President Mitch is a leader who is not afraid of change, and I admire that because, without change, tomorrow you lose.

But back to Coach Keady. Our senior year, Mr. Vitale on TV picked our team last because we had lost our best player to the NBA draft. I went to Coach Keady's office before the season as one of his senior captains, and I asked him: Coach, how do you feel about this team? Do you believe we are going to be last?

He said: No, we are not going to be last.

I asked: How do you know, Coach? How do you know?

He said: Because I like my locker room.

I asked: What does that mean?

He said: I know you all are going to listen to me, and you will follow what I say. I know you will share the ball, and I know you will outwork the competition.

Well, of course, Coach was right. We went from being picked last to winning the Big 10. Coach Keady's first of six Big 10 championships in 25 years at Purdue, four consensus national coach of the year, six national coach of the year in one media, service, or another, and, importantly, in 25 years at Purdue, a winning record against the coach down in Bloomington.

I want to honor Coach Keady today, and I want to end by thanking our president at Purdue University, Mitch Daniels. I honor and admire Coach Keady for what he has accomplished. Most of all, I want to thank Coach Keady for his loyalty to me. My last game was bad. I have to live with that forever, but for 30 years now, I have lived in his umbrella of love and loyalty. He has always been there for me, and I honor him for that. I appreciate his loyalty as the last important lesson of so many that he taught me.

Happy birthday to our wonderful State of Indiana and our wonderful people with our basic cultures of believing in God and treating one another with love and respect.

□ 1530

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida for those excellent words. I can't believe the last game he played at Purdue University

was all that bad, but we will go back to the tapes and look. Either way, it is now part of our wonderful Hoosier history.

There are, of course, quite a few other notable sporting events in Indiana. ANDRÉ CARSON spoke of one of them, and that is one that can't be rivaled. That is called the "greatest spectacle in racing." I just recently had a picture of the speedway up here on the floor.

The Indianapolis 500 celebrated its 100th running earlier this year and continues Indiana's storied history with automobiles, which began in the late 1800s when Elwood Haynes, the "father of the automobile" developed his horseless carriage in Kokomo, Indiana. Kokomo, Indiana is in Howard County. It as a county—and Kokomo as a city—has a great, wonderful, rich automotive history, and history in other respects as well.

It is an honor for me to be able to share that county with one of our great members from the Indiana delegation, an accomplished leader, an accomplished lady who has done wonderful things throughout her professional career and in this House continues to lead the way, most recently by being chosen as our next chairwoman of the House Ethics Committee. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. BROOKS), my friend from the Fifth Congressional District.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of our home State's bicentennial.

I want to thank the gentleman from Indiana's Fourth Congressional District for organizing this very meaningful celebration of our State's 200 years. I want to thank him for his leadership here in the House, representing not only the Fourth District, but all Hoosiers so very proudly, and in your time as secretary of state, where you served throughout our State. I really appreciate the fact that you and your staff put the time and effort in to making these last minutes on the House floor possible as we close out the 114th Congress.

I want to specifically highlight a little bit of the history of the Fifth District, which I represent, but more importantly, how that history informs, inspires, and ignites our future. Since we became a State in 1816, Indiana has transformed again and again, growing and evolving into the strong and thriving State it is today.

I want to talk with you about Conner Prairie in my district. Conner Prairie has grown up with the State. What started as a log cabin in the early 1800s by the White River has grown into a stately brick home that has served as the seat of early Hamilton County government. It is now an interactive history museum and park, and recently it has been recognized as the only Smithsonian affiliate in Indiana. It is a leading innovator in the history museum field, with more than 360,000 visitors each year.

In 1800, William Conner settled in Indiana to become a fur trader. He and his Lenape Indian spouse and their six children lived in that first log cabin on the property. In 1818, Conner played a pivotal role as interpreter and liaison for the Treaty of St. Mary's, in which the Delaware Tribe ceded lands in central Indiana for those west of the Mississippi River. The Lenape Tribe, including Conner's wife and children, left Indiana, but Conner decided to stay.

In 1823, he and his second wife, Elizabeth, built a beautiful brick home on a hill overlooking land that came to be known as Conner Prairie. This home served as the seat of Hamilton County government and the local post office in the early days of the county's founding.

In 1934, Colonel Eli Lilly, then the president of the pharmaceutical company that he founded, which remains today in Indianapolis, Indiana, purchased Conner Prairie and the old brick home in hopes of restoring it and opening it to the public.

Lilly believed that history and its preservation were cornerstones of American democracy. He wanted Conner Prairie to be a place where people could connect with their history and see their heritage brought to life. Little did he realize that his idea would be so vividly brought to life in modern-day Conner Prairie. Growing from the site of occasional historical reenactments, Conner Prairie blossomed into a living history museum that transports visitors back to the Hoosier frontier and invites them to see life in Indiana in 1836.

Prairietown, an immersive exhibit where people, animals, buildings, objects, and daily routines remain just as they were 180 years ago, was just the beginning. In addition to the Prairietown exhibit, Conner Prairie has expanded its historical experience to now include an 1859 Balloon Voyage—the gentleman from Indiana's Fourth District, who loves to fly, I hope he has tried the balloon voyage; it is really remarkable—as well as an 1863 Civil War Journey and a Lenape Indian Camp.

In addition, visitors to Conner Prairie today can see how innovations in math, science, technology, and engineering have shaped our history, and how these vital and growing industries will shape our State's future and are shaping the State of Indiana. Students and children can build planes, create an electrical circuit or radio, construct a windmill, or invent their own products, which they then attempt to patent.

I agree with Colonel Lilly that history is a cornerstone of our democracy. I believe that Conner Prairie is an incredible realization of the idea that history plays a pivotal role in our future. In fact, Conner Prairie, William Conner, and the Conner family is one of the reasons that we named our son Conner and why we spell his name with an "e." In fact, he happens to be in the

balcony of the Chamber today. I am very pleased that he is here with us to learn more about our State's incredible history and the history of his own name.

The brick house that Colonel Lilly purchased in the 1930s still stands, and its renovation was an Indiana Bicentennial Project. As Indiana celebrates its bicentennial and in the many years to come, the many places just like Conner Prairie will always help Hoosiers find their heritage, understand our history, and, most importantly, ignite the future.

Happy birthday to Indiana and all Hoosiers.

Mr. ROKITA. Reclaiming my time, I appreciate the gentlewoman's leadership in the Fifth District and throughout Indiana. It is just another example of, frankly, how we believe our State is great.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. STUTZMAN), from the Third Congressional District, who not only served in this Chamber, but also in Indiana's statehouse, first as a State representative and later as a State senator. He is a farmer from the northeast part of our State. He brings with him to this House and to his future endeavors a robust knowledge and practice of our State's best traditions and history.

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Indiana.

It is great to be here on the floor with my colleagues from the Indiana delegation as we celebrate our bicentennial in Indiana. I also find it an honor that we get to be one of the last groups here on the floor discussing an issue here in this Congress, as we have wrapped up our business earlier today.

I just want to thank Mr. ROKITA, Mrs. BROOKS, Mr. MESSER, and others that I see here—Mr. BUCSHON was here earlier—whom I count it an honor and privilege to serve with.

This will be my last speech on the floor as I end my time here in Congress and look forward to going back home to Indiana again. So I come with some mixed emotions, frankly, but also very excited about what is in store for you all, what is in store for Indiana, what is in store for our country, as I have had the privilege to serve Indiana's Third Congressional District for these past 6 years. I know that, just as you all feel, we feel very privileged to be Hoosiers.

Indiana is oftentimes thought of to be that flyover State in from the East Coast to the West Coast or vice versa; but so many wonderful things are happening in Indiana that we are proud of and that we feel, especially at this time as our own Governor, the Vice President-elect, Mike Pence, who has been our Governor for the last 4 years in Indiana, is showing and exhibiting the good policies, the good nature, the humbleness, the character and integrity that so many Hoosiers display on a daily basis.

So I think that, as I leave, I am looking forward to watching you all continue to face some difficult challenges,

but with a lot of opportunity in front of us. I know that Hoosiers all across our State and Americans are looking for leadership. I know that we have seen that in Indiana with our former Governor, Mitch Daniels. It was great to see our colleague, Mr. CLAWSON, here earlier, who is also going to be departing after this Congress.

We have such great history. Of course, our sports history is one that we love to talk about and brag about.

I also want to recognize my family: my wife Christy, and our sons, Payton and Preston. Payton, of course, was named after a football player in Indianapolis. He was one of those kids in Indiana that was named Peyton during a great streak by Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts.

We have got such great ownership, great leaders in Indianapolis and across the country with the teams that we are proud of in Indiana, the Colts and Pacers. We have got a great college tradition. You turn on ESPN and you see, of course, Indiana basketball, Purdue basketball, Notre Dame. Valparaiso always ends up in the tournament at the end of the year it seems like. Of course, there are other teams that continue to exhibit that tradition that we have in Indiana of great basketball. Of course, our high school basketball is like no other State has. There is something really remarkable about high school basketball in Indiana.

I also just want to quickly recognize a friend that happens to be here. Randy Lewandowski, who is the president of the Indianapolis Indians, our baseball team in Indiana. It is a AAA affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates. He just happens to be in town, and I am proud of the work that he does to bring great baseball to our city and to our State. I am proud of the folks like Randy that work so hard to make Indiana a great place to live.

Of course, our racing is also such a proud sport for us in Indiana.

More importantly than all of that, look at the hardworking Hoosiers on a daily basis who go to work every day, whether it is in the factories, whether it is in the trucking industry. We are known as the crossroads of America. You have distribution centers all across the State. You think of the teachers that do such a remarkable job in teaching our children.

As you get to know people across the State of Indiana, I have become just more and more proud to be called a Hoosier, have the opportunity to represent them, and to know that we all love life. We love liberty. We want to continue to protect the ability to pursue happiness as Americans. We know that life is difficult, life has challenges, but working together and working hard, keeping our head down and facing those challenges together as communities, as a State, and as a country, we can be successful.

As we celebrate our bicentennial, I just know that Indiana has done so much for me and my family. I want to

thank my parents, Albert and Sarah Stutzman; my brothers, Matt and Chris; and my sister, Lynette; and their families for the support that they have given to me in the time that I have had the opportunity to serve here. I know there are so many families across our State that support one another and are working to make life better not only for themselves, but for their families.

□ 1545

Indiana also has the fourth largest National Guard in the country. We have, of course, Texas, California, and New York, but Indiana is one of the largest national guards in the country. And I think that shows the level of commitment that Hoosiers have been willing to sacrifice, to commit to the defense and security of this country. I appreciate many of our leaders in our State that have led a National Guard to show that we are willing to do our part and to help lead the way.

As I think of traveling across the State, there are so many different parts of Indiana that we are so proud to have as part of our State. So I would just say to anyone listening and watching this, as we talk about our beloved Indiana, if you ever get a chance to visit, there is so much to do and see and enjoy, the nature, from top to bottom, from Lake Michigan in the northwest to the Ohio Valley in the southern part of the State, the beautiful farmland, and the rolling hills in the southern part of Indiana.

We just have such tremendous tradition and, of course, the values that we all hold very dearly and know that we want to do our part to not only make Indiana great but to continue to make America great as well.

So with that, Mr. ROKITA, I really appreciate the opportunity, and I thank the gentleman for putting this time together as we reflect on our great State. I want to wish him the very best and the rest of our colleagues the very best as well in the future; and know that folks across this country can look to the gentleman for solid leadership, and appreciate all that he does.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, a lot has been talked about already from Indiana's manufacturing prowess to our agricultural richness, to our own rich history.

I want to focus just a little bit before yielding to my good friend, Mr. MESSER, to talk a little bit about Indiana's agricultural history. It is in the top 10 in the Nation in agricultural sales, with over \$11 billion in those sales.

The agricultural industry creates good Hoosier jobs and provides our Nation with an array of products, from corn to soybeans to hogs and poultry, and you just have to go a few miles in any direction on any one of our roads to know that, by looking out your window.

In fact, Indiana has so many agricultural products that there are six times

as many chickens in the State than people. My district, in particular, has produced several major agricultural innovations.

The town of Kokomo, that I mentioned earlier, is known as the "City of Firsts," due to the many products invented there, including both the first canned tomato juice and the first mechanical corn picker, which revolutionized the farming of one of Indiana's most important crops.

Indiana is specifically one of the Nation's second largest producers of popcorn. And while that definitely helps us all enjoy trips to the movies, Indiana's contributions to the entertainment field have not stopped there.

Famous Hoosiers, as ANDRÉ CARSON mentioned, such as John Mellencamp, Axl Rose, James Dean, and the King of Pop himself, Michael Jackson, have all made their mark on our Nation, providing us with memorable songs and iconic movies, while never forgetting where they came from.

Another great Hoosier who hasn't forgotten where he has come from is my good friend representing the Sixth District of Indiana, which includes Columbus, Muncie, and Richmond, and that is Mr. LUKE MESSER. He and I both went to Wabash College together, and, as I mentioned earlier, we know who we rooted for at the Monon Bell game.

I yield to the gentleman from Indiana's Sixth Congressional District, Mr. LUKE MESSER.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for organizing today's celebration of Indiana's 200th birthday. I thank him for his distinguished little giant career at Wabash College and all of his service to our great State.

It is an exciting time to be a Hoosier any year, but it is a pretty big birthday coming up this year when, on December 11, 2016, we will be celebrating our State's 200th birthday—200 years since Indiana became our Nation's 19th State.

I am holding this basketball because when you think about Indiana, you can't help but think about basketball. And my district, Indiana's Sixth Congressional District, has a couple of pretty important distinguishing factors in Indiana's great history as a basketball State.

First, the Milan Indians, the great Milan Indians team that were the 1954 State champions that showed that our single-class basketball, the small little engine that could, can win a State title, that is from Ripley County in the middle of my State.

And then the Knightstown gym, where the movie "Hoosiers" was filmed, is also in Indiana's Sixth Congressional District. I am going to throw a chest pass of this basketball over to my colleagues from Indiana, where we will show you can catch it. Here you go, Mr. BUCHSHON.

Let the Record show he caught the ball, all right, showing he is a Hoosier. Bring the House to order, as MARLIN said.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CLAWSON of Florida). The House will be in order.

Mr. MESSER. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This Sunday, we celebrate two centuries of statehood, history, tradition, and accomplishment in Indiana. We Hoosiers have a great deal to be proud of in our State, and in the Sixth District that I represent.

The Sixth District is home to renowned architecture, historical landmarks, beautiful parks, and famous Americans. The Wright brothers spent part of their childhood in our corner of Indiana. Wilbur was born in Millville, and Orville first took up kite building in Richmond, Indiana.

Richmond was also the home to Gennett Records, where some of the earliest jazz recordings were ever produced in the late 1910s and early 1920s, earning Richmond the nickname of the "cradle of recorded jazz."

David Letterman attended school at Ball State University in Muncie, as did Jim Davis, who is famous for the "Garfield" cartoon.

Hancock County in the Sixth District is the home of the famed Hoosier poet, James Whitcomb Riley, who wrote, among other things, "Little Orphant Annie."

Columbus is known for beautiful architecture and for being the home of the oldest theater in the State, The Crump Theater, built in 1889 by John Crump.

A centuries-old tree grows atop the Decatur County Courthouse Tower, giving Greensburg, my hometown where I grew up, the nickname "Tree City."

Famous Hoosiers from the Sixth District include Vice President Thomas Hendricks, from my adopted hometown of Shelbyville, where my kids began our family's life, together with my wife, Jennifer; three-time Indianapolis 500 winner Wilbur Shaw; racecar driver Tony Stewart, from Columbus; Shelbyville basketball player Bill Garrett; actresses Joyce DeWitt and Jamie Hyneman; cinema and television pioneer Francis Jenkins; and the list goes on.

We have also had two Governors hail from our part of the State, Oliver Morton, and current Governor, Mike Pence. Now the Sixth District will be lucky enough to claim another Vice President, Vice President-elect, and former Sixth District Congressman, Mike Pence, who we are all very proud of.

In fact, I am so proud of our State, and I don't know that the gentleman would know this—I know at least one of our colleagues were surprised to learn—but my wife, Jennifer, and I actually wrote a book about this great State of Indiana called, "Hoosier Heart." It is a book that celebrates the history and traditions of our State, the people, its places. I am just going to read the sort of closing passage of this book as I wrap up my comments today.

The book closes this way:

The word "Hoosier" is a mystery. No one knows where it comes from for sure. Some say it was a pioneer greeting. The gentleman here says, Whose year?

Others say someone once lost an ear, and this young guy asks, Whose ear?

But whatever a Hoosier used to be, we all know what a Hoosier is today. A Hoosier is someone with Indiana roots, someone who loves our State in every way.

Hoosiers come in all shapes and sizes, all races, and all creeds. Some Hoosiers don't even live in our State. Over time, some Hoosiers do leave.

But wherever Hoosiers now live, they are never far apart because the key to being a Hoosier is having a big Hoosier heart.

Happy birthday, Indiana.

Mr. ROKITA. Reclaiming my time, it is a great book, as my family knows as well, and excellent words from the gentleman from Indiana's Sixth Congressional District.

Throughout this all, Indiana's Fourth Congressional District has more than done its part in adding to our State's rich history. The Battle of Tippecanoe, for example, which put Indiana on the path to statehood, took place in modern-day Lafayette, and gained recognition for General William Henry Harrison, who would go on to become our ninth President.

The Fourth District is also home to the first Indiana State Flag, pictured here. This is from about—this was 1916, when our flag design was—this flag design was awarded the honor of becoming our official flag. It was created by Paul Hadley, of Mooresville, in Indiana's Fourth District, for a contest during our State's first Centennial celebration.

Our district is also home to many important landmarks. Boone County Courthouse has the largest 1-piece limestone columns in the country. Newton County is home to 23 bison, our State animal. And Benton and White Counties have one of the largest windmill farms in the Nation.

This is just a small sample of the great parts of our State and district, and our bicentennial celebration has done a fantastic job of highlighting these and many others over the past 12 months.

I have even had the pleasure of participating in several of the events, like many of my colleagues have, including selecting a bicentennial-themed entry as the winner for our office's Congressional Art Competition, and serving as torchbearer for the torch relay.

The relay saw the bicentennial torch, designed and made by Purdue students, travel through each of our 92 counties over the course of several weeks, and highlighted both the unique history and the places in each part of our State and the common bond that makes all of us Hoosiers.

I served as a torchbearer in Fountain County, and was very impressed by the high turnout and enthusiasm. At a time in this Nation's life when it is hard to get members of a particular place to act like a community because

of so many different distractions and diversions and how technology has entered our lives, it was humbling, sobering, but very prideful to see thousands of people in a relatively small county come together for such an event as to see a torch going by and being passed along by the county courthouse.

The Hoosiers, I saw, were well-prepared for the event and were not going to let a little bit of rain keep them from coming out and celebrating towns and their counties and, most of all, our wonderful State.

The event itself helped to remind me of the most important and unique part of our State, and that is the people. Hoosiers are kind and gracious people who take pride in their work and in their State. They have been the secret to our State's 200 years of success.

Now, this Sunday's final bicentennial event is entitled "Igniting the Future," and it is my belief and hope that it will inspire our next generation of Hoosier leaders to continue this record of accomplishment, and never forget about what makes this State and our country so exceptional, exceptional with a capital E.

Myself, and my colleagues here from Indiana, look forward to working with these future leaders and ensuring the success of our State for another 200 years.

Mr. Speaker, before yielding back, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Evansville, Mr. LARRY BUCSHON.

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I want to use some of the last time that we have to honor a great Hoosier. I know others will have comments and, today, as we recognize Indiana's 200th birthday, it is also important to acknowledge the contribution of one of those who has made an indelible mark on our shared history.

Without a doubt, one of those people is a man who delivered his final speech from the Senate floor this past week with a heartfelt message about preserving the freedoms that make this country so great.

Senator DAN COATS exemplifies what it means to be a public servant. He has dedicated his life to improving the lives of his fellow citizens.

He served his country in the United States Army; he has spent time in both the U.S. House and the United States Senate; he served as an Ambassador to Germany, assuming that role just 3 days prior to the tragic attacks on September 11, 2001.

After this distinguished career, Senator COATS answered the call to serve his fellow citizens once again in the United States Senate, where he has been a national leader on reducing Federal spending, fixing our economy, and keeping our Nation safe and secure.

And a little personal story. I was a cardiovascular surgeon prior to coming to Congress. And when I spend time at events with Senator COATS, he always likes to tell everyone he feels very comfortable because, if he has a heart problem, Congressman BUCSHON will

pick up a butter knife or something and fix him up right there on the spot.

□ 1600

It is a really humorous story that I enjoy his telling every time we are together at an event. Senator COATS has a great sense of humor. While his time in the Senate has come to an end, I am also confident he will continue to be a voice and an advocate for the issues he cares about most. Our State and our country are lucky to have benefited from the service of a great man like Senator DAN COATS.

I wish DAN and Marsha all the best.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MESSER), who represents the Sixth District.

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, when given the opportunity to say something nice about DAN COATS, I didn't want to pass it up. If I could give one word to describe U.S. Senator DAN COATS, it would be "Hoosier." He is a person of grace and humility, hard work and humor. He never worried about who got credit, loved his country, and made the sacrifices through his life and career to make our country better.

I am honored to call DAN a friend, and I appreciate his mentorship of our entire delegation in the time that I have had an opportunity to serve here. I suspect DAN's service for our country isn't quite over yet, and I look forward to whatever he does next.

One of the other great things about DAN COATS is he is a family man. I certainly wish DAN, Marsha, and their entire family a great future.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman is right. I don't know if DAN COATS will ever be able to retire. I know he wants to.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. STUTZMAN), who is from the Third Congressional District in the northeast.

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I just want to stand here in front of this House and this body to honor our Senator, DAN COATS, who served Indiana in so many different capacities. I actually have the privilege of representing his district, the Third District in northeast Indiana.

We have such a long line of great leaders from northeast Indiana who have served here in Washington from our State, and DAN COATS, of course, exemplified a man of character, humbleness, and leadership. He followed former Vice President Dan Quayle.

I also would like to recognize him as well. He is another man who showed leadership for our State here in Washington, D.C.

Both of those gentlemen have been heroes and models for me growing up, watching both of them as they took time to come to Washington and show what Hoosier leadership is all about.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman again for honoring them today.

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

In closing this out, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that Indiana has produced no shortage of great statesmen, as we reflected on this last half hour, and Senator DAN COATS has indisputably joined their ranks after decades of service to both our State and to our country. My own history with Senator COATS goes way back to when I was an intern in his Senate office. If he were on this floor today, Mr. Speaker, I am sure he would say that I was one of the worst interns he ever had. Nonetheless, he started my career in politics with that unpaid job that was one of the best experiences of my life. He has conservative leadership, and I know that he was anxious to get back to helping out the office and do whatever he could for the State of Indiana, however he could.

Since those many years ago, since those first observations that I have had of Senator COATS, he has gone from Senator, to U.S. Ambassador to Germany, and back to Senator again. It is a long and distinguished career full of dedication to right ideals and the desire to fight for what is best for all Hoosier families and what is best for Americans.

I appreciate all of the work, as we all do, that Senator COATS has done and the causes he has advocated for and for his counsel. As I have said, I don't know if he is actually going to be able to retire at this time, but whatever his desire, he deserves it.

I have no doubt that he will continue to represent the best interests of our State and this country even after his time in the Senate has come to an end. I would like to issue a heartfelt thank-you for all of his work, and I wish him my best on all his future endeavors.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I hope you will please join us all in wishing Indiana a happy birthday on this wonderful occasion of our 200th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Senator DAN COATS, a U.S. Army veteran, former Member of the House of Representatives, United States Ambassador to Germany and a great Hoosier. I've had the pleasure of serving with Senator COATS as a fellow member of the Indiana delegation since my first term in 2013. In fact, the first legislation that I introduced and got passed into law was a bill that I worked on with Senator COATS and his team, the Alicia Dawn Koehl Respect for National Cemeteries Act.

During his time in the Senate, he has been a passionate advocate for Hoosiers, working on policies that are focused on getting more Americans back to work and getting our economy back on track. His leadership will be missed, but I know that he and his wife Marsha will continue to do great things that make a difference for Hoosiers as they begin this next chapter of their lives.

Thank you, Senator COATS, for all of your work to represent our great state of Indiana, and best wishes as you embark on your next adventure.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the conference report accompanying the bill (S. 2943) "An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes."

ABROGATING OUR NATURAL RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, this is supposed to be our last day in formal session, actual session, of the year. There may be something coming up. I always worry about unanimous consent requests when nobody is here.

I know the administration likes to brag that it has been a good year for enforcing the border, but this story from Brooke Singman says:

The number of unaccompanied children crossing into the U.S. from Mexico nearly doubled this year citing from Border Patrol figures.

Hopefully, we will get the Trump administration moving as quickly as they indicate they intend to.

It is worth noting that this story came out from The Hill. Mark Hensch said that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind behind 9/11, says that in his view, immigration into the United States is al Qaeda's deadliest weapon against the United States. That is what he has apparently indicated.

A witness said:

From his perspective, the long war for Islamic domination wasn't going to be won in the streets with bombs and bullets and bloodshed. No, it would be won in the minds of the American people.

This is Khalid Sheikh Mohammed's thinking. Thank God—literally, thank God—that President Obama has not released the mastermind as he has so many others who have contributed to the deaths of Americans.

But Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the 9/11 mastermind, said:

The terror attacks were good, but the "practical" way to defeat America was through immigration and by out-breeding non-Muslims.